

NBC BRIEFING

28 February 1957

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INDONESIA

- I. After many weeks of political turmoil, a critical stage now appears to be approaching in Indonesia, with President Sukarno advocating the rejection of Western Democracy and calling for an entirely new form of government which would include the Communists.
 - A. Sukarno is vigorously pushing his "nation-saving concept," announced 21 February, which calls for establishment of all-powerful "advisory council" and new cabinet with Communist participation in both.
 1. Cabinet to include representatives of all 28 parties in parliament.
 2. Sukarno personally to chair council made up or representatives of "functional groups" (military, youth, labor, women) which will presumably guide cabinet with "solicited and unsolicited advice."
 3. Sukarno insisting on Commie participation in concept because of six million Indonesians who voted for Communist party in 1955, making it nation's fourth largest party.

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- [redacted]
- B. Sukarno claims that his plan introduces family concept into politics, thereby assuring "national peace."

II. Communist Party enthusiastically acclaiming concept and is pressing vigorous pro-Sukarno and anti-Western campaign.

A. Campaign, roaring along with aid of sound trucks, mass demonstrations, and massive display of signs, threatens anarchy in Djakarta.

1. Mass meeting 24 February demanded nationwide support for Sukarno and denounced those opposed as traitors.

2. Commie agitators have smeared Djakarta, including US government property, with red paint.

B. Sukarno has thus far welcomed Communist support.

1. Told Communist-organized demonstrators that theirs was the voice of the people, and that the "voice of the people is the voice of God."

III. Commies reportedly demanding portfolios of information, labor and agriculture in new cabinet.

A. Commie-controlled SOBSI threatening paralyzing strikes if party not taken into government.

IV. Sukarno, moving ahead, has just consulted party leaders concerning

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A.

B.

C. According radio Jakarta, Communists gave strong support, National Party said it was "close" to concept, Mesjumi opposed, NU weaseled.

D. Although Sukarno and barkers appear have much the upper hand, at least in Java, Moslem resistance may put match to tinderbox.

V. Sukarno undoubtedly hopes to use army to assure success.

A.

B. As result of recent army reorganization, increasing percentage of officer corps is amenable to Sukarno's policies and Communists reportedly have been successful in infiltrating

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C. Army, however, still lacks unity as some army elements are believed in strong opposition to his concept.

B. Mobile police brigade also anti-Communist, but its strength in Djakarta has recently been reduced and those still on the scene confined to barracks.

VI. Sukarno's concept has stolen spotlight from dissatisfaction of non-Javanese areas.

A. No progress has been made toward settlement of political problem in Sumatra.

B. Sukarno hopes to solve the Sumatran situation by exploiting differences within the rebel group, employing economic sanctions, and finally pulling a military coup against the weakened dissidents.

- C. Latest to take a cue from Sumatra are two small islands north of Celebes, which have declared their discontent with the central government, although replying loyalty to Sukarno.
- D. Non-Javanese areas unlikely react favorably to concept as no important role is indicated for former vice president Hatta and no promises were made regarding greater autonomy or better economic deal.